



**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY  
FINAL OFFICIAL  
Meeting Minutes**

**Annexation and Incorporation Task Force**

**North Regional Library**  
2455 N.W. 183<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Miami Gardens, Florida 33054

April 17, 2013

As Advertised

Harvey Ruvin, Clerk  
Board of County Commissioners

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CLERK'S SUMMARY AND OFFICIAL MINUTES  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY ANNEXATION AND INCORPORATION TASK FORCE  
APRIL 17, 2013

The Miami-Dade County Annexation and Incorporation Task Force (Task Force) convened a meeting on Wednesday, April 17, 2013, at the Miami-Dade County North Dade Regional Library, 2455 N.W. 183<sup>rd</sup> Street, Miami, Florida, at 6:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Michael Pizzi, Vice Chairman Kenneth Forbes, and members Mr. Steven Alexander, Ms. Anne Cates, Mr. Carlos Diaz-Padron, Mr. Lenny P. Feldman, Mr. Richard Friedman, Mr. Carlos Manrique, Mr. Manuel L. Marono, and Ms. Deborah Skill Lamb; (Ms. Rosa M. De La Camara was late and Commissioner Juan Zapata was absent).

In addition to the members of the Task Force, the following staff members were present: Deputy Mayor Jack Osterholt; Assistant County Attorney Craig Collier; Office of Management & Budget Director Jennifer Moon and Coordinator Jorge Fernandez; and Deputy Clerk Mary Smith-York.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Pizzi called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. and welcomed Task Force members and others present to today's (4/17) meeting. He asked everyone to observe a moment of silence for the victims and people in Boston, Massachusetts, and throughout the country, impacted by the tragic incident at the Boston Marathon.

**APPROVAL OF APRIL 3, 2013 AITF MINUTES**

It was moved by Mr. Kenneth Forbes that the AITF approve the April 3, 2013 Minutes as presented. This motion was seconded by Mr. Friedman, followed by discussion.

Ms. Cates expressed concern with the following language on Page 1, second paragraph from the bottom, line 7: "...She noted the City of Miami Gardens had been unable to continue participating in the mitigation process to receive the benefits of those funds..." Ms. Cates noted she did not think Miami Gardens was ever faced with mitigation and asked for clarification.

Chairman Pizzi said that the minutes were self-explanatory and accurately reflected the statements made by Commissioner Jordan. He requested that the Clerk provide Ms. Cates with a copy of the audio recording of the subject meeting. Chairman Pizzi recognized District Secretary Joseph Sosa of Representative Manny Diaz' Office, and Town of Medley Mayor Roberto Martell in attendance at today's meeting.

Hearing no further questions or comments, the Task Force members voted on the motion to approve the minutes as presented, which upon being put to a vote, passed by a vote of 8-2; (Members Ms. Cates and Mr. Marono voted "No"; Members Ms. De La Camara and Mr. Manrique were absent).

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

Following a summary of the protocol for today's public hearing process, Chairman Pizzi recognized Ms. Kari Steinberg

Ms. Kari Steinberg, Miami-Dade County Library System, appeared before the Task Force and provided a brief overview of the services offered, how those services were funded with tax dollars, and the benefits of having a library card. She announced that on next Saturday, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., the City of Miami Gardens would host a Human Resource Fair and the following week, the Thirteenth Annual Art of Storytelling Festival would take place at the North Dade Regional Library.

Chairman Pizzi recognized Deputy Mayor Jack Osterholt and Town of Medley Councilperson Susana Guasch in attendance at today's meeting. Chairman Pizzi opened the floor for public input and the following individuals appeared:

- 1) Mr. Max Samuel, 9101 NW 7 Avenue, appeared and stated that he represented the North Central Area which was located in the middle of five (5) cities and expressed opposition to being annexed by any of the cities at this time.
- 2) Ms. Barbara Hagan, 7336 Bay Hill Drive, appeared and distributed copies of a map showing the vast area called Country Club of Miami that was surrounded by cities. She noted the area's efforts to incorporate on three occasions and stated that a fourth invitation to the surrounding areas to incorporate, with the exception of Palm Springs North, was anticipated. Ms. Hagan expressed concern with the turnover in commissioners for the area and suggested that the Unincorporated Municipal Service Areas (UMSA) should be considered Commission Districts.
- 3) Mr. Stanley Jacobs, 1401 NE Miami Gardens Drive, appeared and spoke in opposition to incorporation, noting only real estate developers, brokers, and attorneys benefited from incorporations. He expressed concern with the County's use of the imminent domain process.

In response to Member Lenny Feldman's inquiry as to whether he was also opposed to annexations, Mr. Jacobs stated he was unsure of his position on annexations.

In response to Mr. Jacobs' comments that the AITF Public Hearings were ill-timed, Chairman Pizzi explained that this Task Force voted to convene these meetings at a time and location that would provide the community with a greater opportunity to attend.

- 4) Mr. Robert Klein, President of Royal Bahamian Condominium Association, 1075 NE Miami Gardens Drive, appeared and stated he had yet to hear of a financial incentive with respect to incorporations. He stated his belief that Miami-Dade County provided unequalled service to the North Dade unincorporated area in which he resided. Mr. Klein pointed out that there were so few businesses in the area that, if it was incorporated, it would be unable to sustain itself.

- 5) Ms. Alicia Rook, 1971 NE 188 Street, appeared and spoke in opposition to incorporation. She noted that she had collected hundreds of signatures against incorporation seven years ago, and that sentiments had not changed since that time. Ms. Rook stated that none of the 12,000 people who lived in the condominium were represented in the Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC), which was not equal representation.

Upon hearing Ms. Rook indicate that police response time in her area ranged from seven to ten minutes, Member Carlos Manrique indicated that in some UMSA areas police response time was one and a half hours. He noted there were two models for annexation and incorporation and explained that if some areas incorporated through the Charter process reducing UMSA from 48 percent of the County to 25 percent, the cost of services would likely increase threefold for residents of UMSA.

Responding to Mr. Manrique's question as to whether she would consider incorporation if the cost of services were to increase threefold, Ms. Rook stated that remained to be seen.

Chairman Pizzi requested that Task Force members refrain from having discussions with the speakers during the public hearing so as to circumvent the appearance of debate. He then recognized Member Mr. Feldman to ask a question of the speakers.

Mr. Feldman asked Ms. Rook and Mr. Klein whether they were both as opposed to annexation as they were to incorporation.

Mr. Klein said that he had always been open-minded regarding annexation and had not excluded the possibility of being in support of it; however, he was inclined towards opposition because the area of Skylake could not sustain itself independently.

Ms. Rook stated that no one she knew was in support of annexation.

- 6) Ms. Carol Feiler, 503 NW 202 Terrace, appeared and suggested that Task Force members ask questions of speakers after the meeting ended. She said she did not believe this was the proper time to consider annexations and incorporations in light of the current economic situation. She stated that she was totally against annexation and was in favor of the status quo. Ms. Feiler recommended that the Mayor increase the millage rates slightly rather than incorporating and greatly increasing the rates.
- 7) Ms. Joanne Carbana, Councilwoman, Community Council No. 5, 19301 NW 52 Court, appeared and stated that she and her constituents were against incorporation and annexation.

Following Ms. Cabana's confirmation that the primary objection to incorporation and annexation was due to a potential increase in taxes, Mr. Friedman asked those in attendance to raise their hands if they agreed with this statement. Approximately 18 persons raised their hands in agreement.

- 8) Ms. Deborah Hayden, 1501 NE Miami Gardens Drive, appeared and noted that she and other attendees owned properties in municipalities although they resided in UMSA. She noted she strongly opposed incorporation, stating that no city could provide the level of service that the County provided. She noted she believed that corporations preferred to conduct business in the UMSA areas because it was less costly for them. Ms. Hayden commented on the donation of funds from one MAC to another and the consequence of losing \$1.5 million in funding to administration when it should be used to improve the infrastructure in the Northeast MAC.
- 9) Ms. Esperanza "Hope" Reynolds, 8465 Bayview Terrace, appeared and noted she resided in an incorporated area. She said the advantages of living in an incorporated area were that her millage rates were lower, she knew the members of the City Council, and she could voice her opinion at City Hall meetings. She expressed support for incorporations.
- 10) Mr. Bob Weisblum, 1800 NE 196 Terrace, appeared and spoke in support of incorporation and annexation because he believed in controlling his own destiny. He suggested residents attend MAC meetings to be accurately informed about their area. Mr. Weisblum noted during a previous meeting, he was told by the City Manager of Aventura that after careful study, it was decided to reject annexing Mr. Weisblum's area due to Franchise and Utilities fees. He stated if the Mayor's recommendation was accepted, the City of Aventura might reconsider annexing his area. In response to Mr. Feldman's inquiry as to the number of people in favor of incorporation, Mr. Weisblum noted the majority of single-family homeowners were supportive; however, he stated those who resided in condominiums seemed in fear of imminent domain and would benefit from being educated on the subject.
- 11) Ms. Pat Collado, President, Palm Springs North Civic Association, 7881 NW 175 Street, appeared and expressed her appreciation for the Task Force conducting meetings in the community at a time convenient for the residents to attend. She noted she believed the residents of Palm Springs North were opposed to incorporation and would prefer to remain as they were. However, if that was not possible, Ms. Collado recommended that at the very least, the residents be allowed to be involved in the process.

Member Ms. Deborah Skill Lamb informed Ms. Collado that as this was an issue related to taxes, it would not be implemented without going to the voters for approval first.

- 12) Mr. Robert Scaluzzo, Vice President, Palm Springs North Civic Association, 7840 NW 185 Street, Palm Springs North, appeared and echoed Ms. Collado's comments against incorporation. He noted he would prefer to annex with Miami Lakes.
- 13) Mr. Mike Rodriguez, 7891 NW 170 Street, member of Palm Springs North Civic Association, appeared and noted he concurred with Ms. Collado's and Mr. Scaluzzo's comments against incorporation. He also expressed his preference to annex with Miami Lakes.

- 14) Mr. Wilbur Bell appeared and stated residents of incorporated areas were currently paying municipal taxes, which were being used to operate the city. He noted there was a difference between incorporated and unincorporated areas of the County. He expressed his belief that the entire County would eventually be incorporated due the County Government's inability to deliver the level of services needed. Mr. Bell explained that, with incorporation, the County would maintain services related to hospitals, fire, roads and open spaces; however, other services would be controlled by the municipalities.
- 15) Mr. Mark Robson, 19860 NE 24 Court, appeared and clarified that the AITF was dealing with all unincorporated regions rather than one single area. He pointed out that each area should be considered individually as incorporation and/or annexation would not be the same for each area. Mr. Robson explained that because the City of Aventura had a large tax base and population, its residents paid lower taxes than those in the unincorporated areas.

In response to Chairman Pizzi's inquiry as to his preference of having his area incorporate as its own city or be annexed by the City of Aventura, Mr. Robson stated there were three choices: maintain the status quo, annexation, or incorporation. He said that he was opposed to maintaining the status quo under the County's jurisdiction; he believed incorporation would be the lesser of two evils, in that the money would remain in the community; however, his choice between annexation and incorporation, would be to annex with Aventura. Mr. Robson noted the City of Aventura managers had indicated that if the County Mayor's recommendations were echoed in the Task Force's recommendations and the Code was changed to reflect that utility and franchise tax revenues would be retained by an annexing entity as they were by an incorporating entity, they might be interested in re-examining the annexation issue.

Mr. Feldman observed that this discussion was representative of some of the issues that the communities were facing, and that the Task Force had to consider. He noted there might be a desire on one side of UMSA to consider annexation, but he pointed out that this was a two-way decision. He asked how incentives could be provided to some areas, such as Aventura, to consider annexation.

Mr. Robson pointed out that the taxes in the unincorporated areas would not remain at their current levels. He noted Aventura's taxes were currently lower than the UMSA area's taxes, and that difference would become greater as other areas left the UMSA.

Ms. Skill Lamb asked Mr. Robson for his views on the County Mayor's recommendation that the services of the Police, Building & Zoning, and Planning Departments cease to be provided if the entire County was incorporated and/or annexed.

Mr. Robson explained that he paid a great deal of taxes for police service in his unincorporated area, noting he would not be subject to these taxes if it could be annexed by the City of Aventura.

- 16) Mr. Arvid Rumbaitis, 19301 NE 22 Avenue, appeared and noted it would be exceedingly expensive to incorporate the Skylake/Highland Lakes area, with 20,000 residents, as a

separate city. He asked whether the Task Force would decide if incorporation or annexation was the best fit for the area.

Chairman Pizzi explained that this Task Force was requested to convene public hearings and conduct research in order to provide the County Commission with recommendations on the annexation/incorporation issues currently facing Miami-Dade County.

Mr. Robson said that, for 25 years, he was a Budget Officer with the Federal Government in Washington, D.C. and only dealt with economies of scale with respect to rendering government services. He stated that a very small community must incur a much higher millage rate than a much larger community; therefore, it would be wonderful if the Skylake/Highland Lakes could be annexed to Aventura City.

Responding to Member Mr. Richard Friedman's question as to which he would choose if two areas, one with a low taxation rate and the other a higher taxation rate, proposed annexing his community, Mr. Rumbaitis noted he would obviously choose the one with higher taxation. In response to Mr. Friedman's question as to whether he would prefer being annexed to Aventura with a low millage rate or North Miami Beach with a higher millage rate, Mr. Rumbaitis stated, based on self-interests, he would choose Aventura. Pursuant to Mr. Friedman's question as to how to approach a situation in which the area did not have the option of choosing a city with a low taxation rate, Mr. Rumbaitis said that a realistic calculation must be done to determine the cost for a separate city government to provide similar services, and this would involve analyzing the tax base and determining whether it consisted primarily of individuals or companies, etc.

Mr. Friedman explained that the reason he asked these questions was to demonstrate the complexity of the issues being examined by the Task Force members as they were considering multiple areas with different taxation rates, and unincorporated areas that were donor, revenue-neutral or recipient communities. He pointed out that the Task Force members were tasked with making a recommendation that was mostly fair to everyone, and that contained enough information to be easily understood by everyone.

- 17) Mr. Mike Hatcher, 25145 SW Morningside Drive, appeared and noted he concurred with Mr. Friedman that this was a complex issue that had to be framed properly. He explained that those residing in an unincorporated area were actually residents of a City called UMSA with associated taxes. He stated that the City of Miami Lakes used a Special Taxing District in the past to pay for street lighting, but that was dissolved and replaced by a millage rate. He said that Palmetto Bay had not determined how to spend its revenues to repave the roads. Mr. Hatcher pointed out that municipalities were concerned with service delivery, noting UMSA residents received excellent regional services, including police, fire, and courts; however, delivery of the other services were problematic. He said that he lived in the Redlands, paid the lowest millage rate, and had no desire for infrastructure services. Mr. Hatcher stated that he hoped the policies that were ultimately adopted were sensible, practical, and responsive to the needs of this community.



18) Mr. Charles Baron, 17890 W. Dixie Highway, appeared and questioned whether this Task Force was created as the result of some interest group's dissatisfaction with the existence of UMSA. Stating that he was unaware of any surveys being conducted with UMSA residents as to their preferences, Mr. Baron asked for clarification as to the reason this Task Force was established.

In response to Mr. Baron's question, Chairman Pizzi explained that there was a moratorium on incorporations and annexations in Dade County for a period of time; once the moratorium was lifted, the County Commission created this Task Force to consider the issues pertaining to decreasing the UMSA and provide recommendations for establishing policies and procedures for MACs, incorporations and annexations going forward.

Ms. Skill Lamb stated that she was observing that the annexations currently being proposed were targeting high-value commercial areas and cautioned, if that trend continued, that residential homeowners' taxes would increase. She referred to the organization called Let's Incorporate Now Coalition (LINC), which had been in existence for several years, whose sole purpose was to incorporate all of Miami-Dade County. She said that she was unaware of its funding source and expressed surprise that none of its members were present at this meeting.

Mr. Baron reappeared and stated that although he no longer represented the constituents of the OJUS community, he believed they opposed the Northeast Area MAC's efforts to incorporate. He noted, however, many would love being annexed by Aventura, but he had doubts that this would ever occur.

Ms. Barbara Hagan reappeared and stated that her community was safe and the residents were satisfied with and would like to retain the contracted services of the Miami-Dade County Police as the Cities of Miami Lakes and Palmetto had. She reiterated that the Country Club area had made three attempts to incorporate and that the boundaries remained unchanged. Ms. Hagan announced that the Country Club community planned to move forward with its incorporation efforts.

Chairman Pizzi recognized the presence of Former Full Back of the University of Miami Football Team, Mr. Melvin Bratton, and City of Medley Councilwoman, Honorable Griselia DiGiacomo.

Mr. Rumbaitis reappeared and noted that two types of homeowners resided in the Skylake community: single-family residents and condominium residents. He explained that the condominium owners were accused of paying low or no taxes, adding that he suspected incorporation supporters were trying to condemn the condominiums to get more value than the current owners were paying.

There being no other persons to appear, Chairman Pizzi closed the floor to public input.

**OTHER BUSINESS, UPDATES, REPORTS** Chairman Pizzi noted staff was asked to provide the pertinent facts and figures relating to the County's incorporation and annexation process. He asked Mr. Jorge Fernandez, Coordinator, Office of Management and Budget, to provide a report on the following requests:

- \* Provide the impact to the County's budget and UMSA resulting from Key Biscayne's incorporation and, subsequently, Palmetto Bay and other municipalities; isolating variables i.e. millage rate increases/decreases, natural disasters, etc.;
- \* Provide assumptions regarding the County's Budget in the event the entire County was incorporated and UMSA no longer existed; isolating variables like millage rates, Police and Fire services/costs, etc. ;
- \* Provide a presentation by an expert on the outcome from Broward County's adoption of its policy to eliminate UMSA in that County; and,
- \* Provide information on the County's policy regarding utility and franchise taxes with respect to annexations by municipalities.

Mr. Jorge Fernandez, Coordinator, Office of Management and Budget, noted the County Code required that the County retain utility taxes and franchise fees whenever an area was annexed by a municipality. He explained that the utility taxes and franchise fees were pledged by the County to cover its debt service. Mr. Fernandez noted it was staff's recommendation that the annexing municipalities be allowed to assume the utility taxes and franchise fees and be responsible for paying the debt service fees.

Mr. Fernandez informed Chairman Pizzi that this was already occurring in the case of incorporations, and confirmed that if staff's recommendation was adopted the County's reason for retaining the utility taxes and franchise fee revenues would disappear.

Mr. Fernandez announced that staff was still conducting analyses and gathering data in an effort to develop a report addressing the Task Force's requests for the impact to the County if UMSA no longer existed. He explained that whenever an area incorporated, staff analyzed the impact to the unincorporated area by estimating its revenues, which were determined by reviewing the area's population, taxes, etc. and calculating its expenses for public works, police, parks and other services, to determine direct service costs. Mr. Fernandez said this determined whether a community was considered a donor, revenue neutral, or a recipient community.

Upon hearing Mr. Fernandez' statement that the information in staff's report would be broken down by Commission District, Ms. Skill Lamb expressed concern with this breakdown since the districts overlapped.

Ms. Jennifer Moon, Director, Office of Management and Budget, explained that staff was already working on the analysis by Commission District, noting once that was completed, the data could be broken down further. She pointed out that there would be a point at which real data for small areas would not exist and staff would need to make assumptions. Ms. Moon said that staff had received information from the Public Works Department staff who measured the center lane mileage on all the County's roads. Ms. Moon confirmed that UMSA comprised 44 percent of the County and that currently there were three active and two inactive MACs.

### **TASK FORCE DISCUSSION**

Mr. Friedman distributed copies of a document from today's meeting package, which he noted was a breakdown of the municipalities' unincorporated areas and an index of the assessments per capita. He explained that this breakdown would provide an idea of what the property assessment value was in some of the already incorporated areas and what the impact would be in some of the remaining unincorporated areas. Mr. Friedman noted he had no evidence substantiating this information, but he was under the impression that a commissioner, in the Kendall area, who also served as member of this Task Force, had entertained establishing a MAC in West Kendall. Mr. Friedman asked whether, based on the existing data from that Commission District, a hypothetical analysis could be done depicting the entire unincorporated area in that district as an incorporated city and indicating what the impact would be on the remaining UMSA areas. Pointing out that there might not be many areas left in UMSA with high assessment values, he noted, if the process remained unchanged, the County would be left with areas unable to produce adequate revenues at the current taxation rates, to provide needed services.

In response to Mr. Friedman's question as to what would happen if an area remaining in UMSA was unable to sustain itself at the current millage rate, Ms. Moon stated that one solution would be for the millage rate to be increased. She noted in other Florida counties, unincorporated areas were supported by the County through countywide distributions. Ms. Moon said that every county in Florida used the same formula to calculate this distribution amount. She noted, eventually, it would not be worth continuing a municipal services budget and those costs would be absorbed into the countywide Budget. Ms. Moon added that process would probably be implemented for areas outside of the Urban Development Boundary (UDB).

Pursuant to Chairman Pizzi's question, Ms. Moon explained that, with the exception of North Miami Beach, a list of all pending annexations in the County could be found in today's handout under the tab labeled "County Map."

Upon Ms. Moon's response that staff would provide the data requested by the Task Force within a week after reviewing the recently received active maps, Chairman Pizzi requested that staff provide the Task Force with whatever information was readily available.

Pursuant to Chairman Pizzi's inquiry as to whether the County had conducted any studies on the possibility of UMSA no longer existing and how that would affect the County, Ms. Moon informed him that staff not studied that particular scenario; however, a report on potential solutions to the impact of full incorporation was available. Ms. Moon also noted staff attempted to conduct analyses on whether existing municipalities would annex areas near their boundaries; however, the response was so inconsistent that the study was terminated.

Ms. Cates advised Task Force members that all of the reports mentioned today were available on the County's Website, including a memorandum pertaining to individual municipalities annexing contiguous areas.

Mr. Feldman questioned the value and relevance of information obtained in 2007 pertaining to annexation and associated franchise and utility tax fees, in light of the recent economic changes. He asked if the pending incorporations and annexations should be implemented, and could an

estimate be made as to when a rapid increase in millage rates would occur for areas remaining in UMSA or whether it would have to be absorbed by the County.

Responding to Mr. Feldman's question, Ms. Moon described the necessary steps for obtaining the data needed to perform analyses and provide answers to the Task Force's questions, including the use of assumptions for the MACs in question and the order in which to assemble that information.

Following additional discussion among Task Force members and staff, Ms. Moon agreed to poll all the municipalities on whether they intended to annex areas near their boundaries and provide the Task Force with a report.

### **OTHER BUSINESS, UPDATES, REPORTS**

Chairman Pizzi asked Deputy Mayor Jack Osterholt, as a former Broward County Administrator, to provide Task Force members with his insight on what motivated Broward County to eliminate all of its unincorporated areas.

Regarding Broward County's decision to implement full incorporation, Deputy Mayor Osterholt noted the process started with the incorporation of Weston and Bonaventure, two well-developed areas and the source of a large portion of the taxes spent on the unincorporated areas. Mr. Osterholt explained how the loss of those two communities to incorporation adversely impacted the County's revenues for the unincorporated areas. As a result, he stated, the Legislative Delegation gave the County two years to bring all areas of the County into full incorporation before it would perform this act itself. Mr. Osterholt reported that at the end of that period, once it was realized that the fewer the residents in unincorporated areas the higher the taxes for services would be, the remaining areas embraced incorporation.

Pursuant to Chairman Pizzi's question as to whether the Miami-Dade County Mayor's Office had made a recommendation for the remaining unincorporated areas, Mr. Osterholt said there was no comparison between circumstances in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties. He explained that as opposed to what happened in Broward County, in Miami-Dade there is no accumulation of large, high-valued property that wanted to incorporate, and Miami-Dade's unincorporated areas were significantly larger. Mr. Osterholt confirmed that Mayor Gimenez was currently drafting legislation recommending that newly-incorporated municipalities retain the utility taxes and franchise fees associated with their communities.

Mr. Friedman observed that as wealthier areas incorporated out of UMSA, the demand to maintain services while provide low taxation rates increased. He said that at some point, there would not be enough assessed property value to keep the taxation rates from increasing. He expressed concern that residents were unwilling to make a choice due to the complexity of the incorporation/annexation issue. Mr. Friedman asked what approach Broward County used to encourage other unincorporated areas outside of Weston and Bonaventure to incorporate; and whether strategies were used to enhance the property values in the unincorporated areas to enable them to become self-sustainable (for example, offering incentives to businesses to relocate in these communities, or making infrastructure improvements).

Mr. Osterholt stated that the Broward Administration approached the Broward County Commission with a proposal that ensured fire service and emergency medical services would always be provided to the cities. He explained that recommendations included offering the cities surrounding the unincorporated areas the choice of assuming the County's fire service for the unincorporated area, after which the County would buy it back. Mr. Osterholt noted this would have ensured that the County's equipment, stations, and personnel would be assimilated into the new municipalities; however, the Broward Commission rejected the proposal. He explained that the large regional parks remained the responsibility of the County, and described how the Administration made deals for municipalities to assume responsibility for small parks by requiring the continued level of maintenance and operations as provided by the County. Mr. Osterholt explained that the methods used in Broward County were not applicable to Miami-Dade County because the service delivery model was totally different.

Chairman Pizzi requested Task Force members to provide feedback regarding locations and structure of these meetings and what additional information, other than public comments, were needed for substantive discussion and formulation of recommendations for the County Commission's review.

In response to Mr. Forbes' reminder of his previous request for information pertaining to the four southernmost Community Councils, Mr. Fernandez explained that staff was currently gathering demographic information pertaining to all the Community Councils, as well as the Commission Districts and UMSA areas.

#### **NEXT MEETING – UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE**

Mr. Jorge Fernandez informed Task Force members that pursuant to their consensus, meetings would be held on Wednesdays. He stated that the next meeting was scheduled for April 24, 2013, at the South Dade Regional Library, 10750 SW 211 Street, Cutler Bay, FL 33189. He noted subsequent to the next meeting, a meeting would be held on May 1, 2013, at the West Dade Regional Library, 9445 Coral Way, Miami, FL 33165, and the final meeting could be held on either May 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, or 29<sup>th</sup>, at the West Kendall Regional Library, 10201 Hammocks Blvd, Miami, FL 33196.

Discussion ensued among Task Force members and staff with regard to determining what additional information and documentation was needed and identifying specific issues for discussion. Ms. Moon stated that legislation requested by Ms. Skill-Lamb pertained to the Comprehensive Development Master Plan (CDMP) and was not relevant to the issues being considered by this Task Force.

Further discussion ensued among members and staff regarding the need to clarify the Task Force's primary purpose pursuant to the Mayor's memorandum.

Member Ms. Rosa De La Camara asked for clarification, noting the Task Force was discussing issues regarding the districts and many of the unincorporated areas currently in the pipeline pending incorporation/annexation. However, she stated, her understanding of their task was to provide recommendations to the Mayor and County Commission on how to address UMSA while avoiding the creation of low property value pockets and areas unable to support their basic

municipal services. Ms. De La Camara noted the following questions would need to be answered in the Task Force's recommendations: Do we recommend incorporating the remaining portions of UMSA into the various pockets of small municipalities or do we recommend incorporation of the entire remaining UMSA into its own municipality? She pointed out that this issue concerned the economic and financial viability of the County and that much more information was needed to make recommendations. Ms. De La Camara suggested that the Task Force make recommendations of a more global, instructional, guideline nature rather than focusing on specific requests already in the pipeline.

Member Mayor Marono suggested that the Task Force members' primary focus should be on listening to the concerns of the residents of UMSA for use in formulating recommendations to staff.

In response to Mr. Friedman's inquiry as to whether it was stated at the last meeting that the current millage rates might be insufficient to sustain UMSA for a lengthy period, Ms. Moon recalled her comment was that it was not possible to assume that the millage rate would be the same as it is now, for purposes of calculating the requested analyses. She noted the point at which the County would no longer be able to support UMSA services was a policy question based on the decision to no longer increase the millage rate.

Discussion ensued among Task Force members and staff concerning the need to obtain the necessary data for analysis and public feedback so members could make intelligent decisions. Chairman Pizzi said he believed that, based on public input and factual data from staff, the Task Force would provide the County Commission with recommendations on a global policy to address the annexation/incorporation issue.

In response to Mr. Feldman's question as to whether the millage rate supported the global infrastructure in UMSA, Ms. Moon stated that the County's Budget Books listed the "Unmet Needs," by department, with respect to accomplishing the County's strategic plan, and were available on the County's website.

Mr. Forbes asked Ms. Moon to provide Task Force members with a hardcopy of that information.

Mr. Manrique observed that, although there were five (5) MACs currently in the pipeline, all might not complete the incorporations/annexations process as the voters would make the final decision. Referring to Deputy Mayor Osterholt's comments on Broward County's action following the incorporation of two large communities, he noted their recommendations should be predicated on whether those MACs that were further along in the process, actually incorporated. Mr. Manrique advised that if those MACs incorporated, resolving the issue regarding UMSA would become a pressing matter and the Task Force members' recommendations should be focused on how this County should operate and how the County Commission should function as a regional form of government.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Miami-Dade County Annexation and Incorporation Task Force, the meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

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Mayor Michael Pizzi, Chairman  
Miami-Dade County Annexation & Incorporation Task Force

